— Inviting bids from empanelled suppliers.

— Selection of associates for procurement of rice.

— Acceptance/negotiations on the quotations received from suppliers submitted to Mauritius and Comoros.

— Signing of the contract with the foreign buyers.

STC

— The shipment of Non-basmati rice was made as per DGFT Notifications.

— As regards Bangladesh, Expression of Interest was invited for selection of suppliers.

— As regards Mauritius, limited tender was called for supply of rice.

— Other African countries, Ministry of respective country/their buying agencies selected Indian supplier and all commercial terms mutually agreed between importers and suppliers and business was concluded through STC and also proof of delivery/receipt to the respective countries from the buying agencies.

— Copy of contract as well as shipping documents was sent to the respective High Commissioner/Embassy of India to the respective countries. Full export proceeds received through banking channels.

PEC

— Government of Sierra Leone nominated its shipper M/s Shiv Nath Rail Harnarain (India) Limited and for financing agreements, M/s Novel Commodities SA, 4/6 Av Industrielle — Case Postale 1851-1227 Carouge — Geneva and accordingly a contract for export of 40,000 MT of Non-Basmati rice to Sierra Leone was signed between PEC, M/s Shiv Nath Rai Harnarain (India) Limited and Ministry of Trade Industry, Government of Sierra Leone represented by M/s Novel Commodities SA, 4/6 Av Industrielle — Case Postale 1851-1227 Carouge — Geneva. Subsequently, an Associateship Agreement was signed between PEC and M/s Shiv Nath Rai Harnarain (India) Limited for export of 40,000 MT of Non-Basmati Rice to Republic of Sierra Leone.

Protest by plantation workers against FTA with ASEAN

598. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the protest by the plantation workers over the impact of FTA signed with ASEAN countries;

(b) the steps being taken to assuage the concerns of plantation workers and cultivators; and

(c) whether Government will consider postponing the implementation of FTA to provide buffer period to domestic producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) To address concerns regarding the plantation sector, the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to expeditiously recommend appropriate measures including structural reforms in vulnerable areas such as tea, coffee, pepper and plantations.

(c) No, Sir.

FDI proposal from Walmart for Multi-Brand Retail

599. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any applications or proposal from the giant MNC Walmart to open up foreign investment in Multi-Brand Retail in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Walmart has sought permission to invest in retail shops;

(c) if so, the details of such proposal;

(d) whether Government has done any study on the impact of such MNCs on the Indian retail sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government had instituted a study on the subject "Impact of organized retailing on the unorganized sector" through the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Main findings of the ICRIER study are given in Statement.

Statement

Findings and recommendations of ICRIER

The real GDP is expected to grow at 8-10 per cent per annum in the next five years. As a result, the consuming class with annual household incomes above Rs.90,000 is expected to rise from about 370 million in 2006-07 to 620 million in 2011-12. Consequently, the retail business in India is estimated to grow at 13 per cent annually from US$ 322 billion in 2006-07 to US$ 590 billion in 2011-12. The study shows:

- The unorganized retail sector is expected to grow at about 10 per cent per annum with sales rising from US$ 309 billion in 2006-07 to US$ 496 billion in 2011-12.